

NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE POLICY DIRECTIVE 10-3

July 8, 2003

Operations and Services

MARINE AND COASTAL WEATHER SERVICES

NOTICE: This publication is available at: <http://www.nws.noaa.gov/directives>.

OPR: W/OS21 (T. Pierce)

Certified by: W/OS (Gregory A. Mandt)

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SUMMARY OF REVISIONS: This directive supersedes NWSPD 10-3, dated May 21, 2002. This directive changes the naming convention of the Marine Prediction Center (MPC) and the Marine Forecast Branch to the Ocean Prediction Center (OPC) and the Ocean Forecast Branch, respectively.

1. The NWS will issue marine warnings and forecasts for the coastal areas of the United States (U.S.), along the coasts of U.S. territories, across ocean areas specified by international agreement, and on the Great Lakes. This includes ice forecasts and advisories issued primarily for the Great Lakes and the waters surrounding Alaska. This directive provides the framework for the NWS marine and coastal service program.
2. The NWS marine and coastal service program provides, in cooperation with our governmental and private sector partners, meteorological support for the protection of life and property, to promote economic benefits, and to enhance the quality of life for governmental, commercial, and recreational maritime operations across NWS areas of responsibility.
3. To ensure the NWS marine and coastal service program is accomplished consistent with the NWS mission and with Department of Commerce (DOC) and National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) policy, this directive establishes the following authorities and responsibilities:
 - 3.1 The Director of the Office of Climate, Water, and Weather Services (OS) will establish procedures and products consistent with this policy directive. The Chief, Marine and Coastal Services Branch (OS21) will provide primary staff assistance.
 - 3.2 Each regional director (RD) will manage and administer the marine and coastal service program in their Region consistent with OS directives. The respective Meteorological Service Divisions (MSD) or equivalent will provide primary staff assistance. Each RD will keep OS21 informed of regional supplements to applicable OS directives.
 - 3.3 The meteorologist in charge (MIC) will implement and operate the marine and coastal

services program in their area of responsibility. Each MIC will keep their regional headquarters informed of local instructions supplementing applicable OS directives or regional supplements.

3.4 The Director of the National Center for Environmental Prediction (NCEP) will manage and administer the marine services program for assigned offshore and high seas areas consistent with OS directives. The Directors of the Ocean Prediction Center (OPC) and the Tropical Prediction Center (TPC) will provide primary staff assistance. The NCEP Director will keep OS21 informed of NCEP supplements to applicable OS directives.

3.5 The Chief of the OPC Ocean Forecast Branch and the Chief of the TPC Tropical Analysis and Forecast Branch will implement and operate the marine services program for their offshore and high seas areas of responsibility. Each Chief will keep their NCEP headquarters informed of local instructions supplementing applicable OS directives or NCEP supplements.

4. This policy directive is supported by the references listed in **Attachment 1**.

Signed by John E. Jones, Jr.

June 26, 2003

John J. Kelly, Jr.
Assistant Administrator
For Weather Services

Date

Attachment 1

GLOSSARY OF REFERENCES AND SUPPORTING INFORMATION

Procedural Directives

Instruction 10-301, *Marine and Coastal Services Abbreviations and Definitions*
Instruction 10-302, *Marine and Coastal Services Areas of Responsibility*
Instruction 10-303, *Marine and Coastal Services Standards and Guidelines*
Instruction 10-304, *Marine and Coastal Services Communication/Dissemination*
Instruction 10-310, *Coastal Marine Forecast Services*
Instruction 10-311, *Offshore, NAVTEX, and High Seas Marine Forecast Services*
Instruction 10-312, *Great Lakes Marine Services*
Instruction 10-313, *Special Marine Warnings*
Instruction 10-314, *Marine Weather Statements*
Instruction 10-320, *Coastal/Lakeshore Flood Services*
Instruction 10-330, *Ocean Ice Services*
Instruction 10-331, *Great Lakes Ice Services*

Supporting Information

1. Title 15, U.S. Code requires the NWS issue marine and coastal weather forecasts and warnings, disseminate these products, and collect and transmit marine observations.
2. The Federal Water Pollution Control Act and the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act as implemented through the National Contingency Plan (NCP; 40 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) Part 300) governs NWS responsibilities responding to discharges of oil or other hazardous substances, including those into a marine environment.
3. The National Search and Rescue Plan, 1999, requires the NWS, acting for NOAA, support marine search and rescue efforts.
4. The NWS issues forecasts and warnings for selected High Seas and Navigational Teleprinter Exchange (NAVTEX) areas following requirements and procedures as outlined in the Safety of Life at Sea (SOLAS) Convention and other international agreements to which the U.S. is a party through the World Meteorological Organization (WMO).
5. Title 7, Article VII, of The Compact of Free Association requires the NWS issue forecasts and warnings for specific Pacific islands.